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Loudoun  
County

Agriculture  
Development

Rural Economic  
Development

Small Business  
Development

Fighting  
Lyme Disease

Community  
Services



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Facebook

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Plan

Route 15  
Recommendations

December 2016

### Dear Catoctin Residents,



I hope that everyone has a very safe and Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! I love the holiday season here in Loudoun County. Buying a local Loudoun Christmas Tree, attending holiday parties, and admiring lights and decor in Western Loudoun are some of my favorite things about this time of year. Winter weather is also a part of the holiday season so I encourage you to frequent the [VDOT WINTER WEATHER SITE](#) for updates and information on current road conditions and snowplow tracking.

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Small Business Spotlight

Here at the Board we are preparing for budget discussions that will be in full swing in the new year. The County Administrator is working to prepare a budget at the current real property tax rate with options to reduce the tax rate to the estimated equalized real property tax rate and we have already started working with Loudoun County Public Schools on their Capital Improvement Program (CIP). I look forward to working with my colleagues on both Boards to prepare a budget in the best interest of our great county.

I want to remind you about my [webpage](#) and [Facebook page](#). Be sure to check them out for the latest updates in the Catoctin District.

And as always, my staff and I are here to assist you in any way that we can! Please do not hesitate to contact our office.

**Sincerely,  
Geary Higgins**

**[Loudoun County the Happiest Place in the United States](#)**

Loudoun Symphony  
Orchestra Schedule

## Proudly Serving Loudoun County

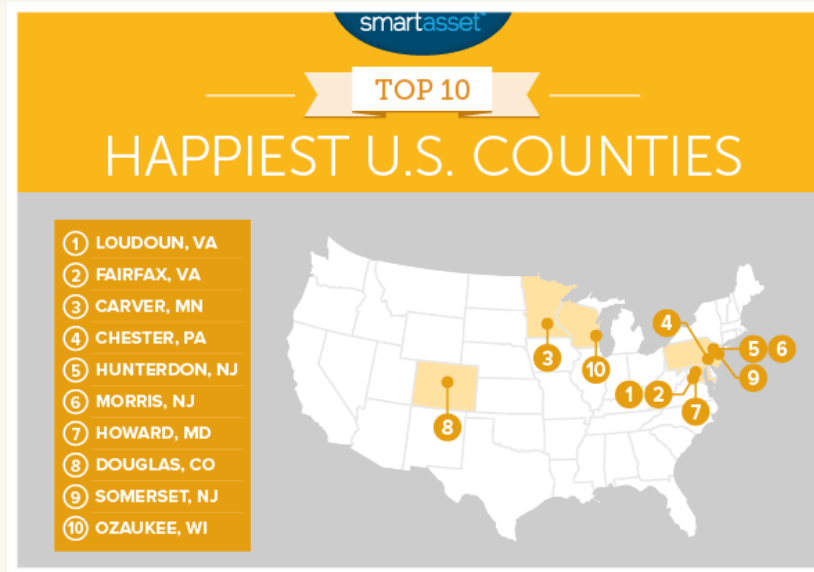
- **Hamilton**
- **Lincoln**
- **Lovettsville**
- **Lucketts**
- **Taylorstown**
- **Waterford**



**Map of Catoctin  
District**

## Get to Know Your County

[Loudoun B&B](#)  
[Loudoun Chamber](#)  
[Loudoun Equine](#)  
[Alliance](#)  
[Loudoun Farms](#)  
[Loudoun Wine](#)  
[Growers](#)  
[Loudoun Youth](#)  
[Virginia Equestrian](#)  
[Virginia is for Lovers](#)



## Stay Updated on Facebook



If you enjoy the Newsletter but want updates as they happen, "Like" **Supervisor Geary Higgins** on facebook so you stay informed while you're scrolling through your newsfeed! I post relevant news updates and events so you can know what is going on in the Catoctin District while it's happening!

## Upcoming Board of Supervisor Meetings

[Visit Loudoun](#)  
[Volunteer Loudoun](#)

## My Committees

[The Joint  
Board/School  
Board Committee](#)

[The Transportation  
and Land  
Use Committee](#)



**View Current  
Calendar of Public  
Meetings**



**[View Live Webcasts of  
Public Meetings](#)**

## Contact Me

**Mailing Address:**  
1 Harrison Street, S.E.  
P.O. Box 7000  
Leesburg, VA 20177

**Office Phone:**  
(703)771-5028

**Fax:**

*Business Meeting - January 3 at 5:00 pm.*

*Public Hearing - January 11 at 6:00 pm.*

## Envision Loudoun New Comprehensive Plan Western Loudoun Workshop



County planning staff and a group of Envision Loudoun stakeholders have embarked on a nearly two year process of building a new Comprehensive Plan for Loudoun County, a project that hasn't been done in Loudoun for fifteen years. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Envision Loudoun workshop at Woodgrove High School in Purcellville on December 5. County Planning put together fantastic Listening and Learning workshops for the public. If you didn't make it out to a workshop it is not too late to make your voice heard! Head over to Envision Loudoun's [website](#) where you can submit your vision for Loudoun!

(703)777-0421

**Email:**

[Geary.Higgins@loudoun.gov](mailto:Geary.Higgins@loudoun.gov)

**Meet My Staff**

**Aides:**

[Stacy Carey](#)

[Mikayla Feil](#)

[Liz Dickinson](#)

**LEX  
Loudoun Express  
Request**



Send your complaints and requests right to county staff! [LEX](#) is designed to be an online system where you can contact the appropriate county staff for all of your needs.

**Stay Connected!**



Find out more at [www.Envision-Loudoun.org](http://www.Envision-Loudoun.org).

## Route 15 Update



After recently meeting with staff, I wanted to share with you the latest update on Route 15 improvements. VDOT and the County

Connect with Me on  
Facebook



Sign Up for County  
Alerts

*Need a Traffic  
Update?*

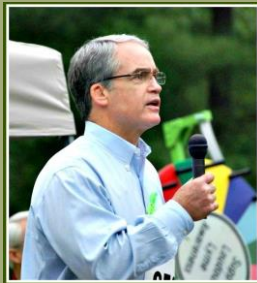


Dial VDOT at  
**511**

*Need to Report a  
Road Problem to  
VDOT?*



Dial  
**1(800)FOR-  
ROAD**



should be in a position to make recommendations for solutions in early 2017 with a completed study by Spring 2017. Much of the delay in the analysis resulted from incomplete initial data from a previous consultant. A new consultant has been retained and analysis is ongoing. As soon as we have concrete proposals from the consultant and staff we plan to bring them to the residents and community for input.

During this past year, I have been laying the groundwork for future implementation and funding of the project. I was able to include Route 15 in Loudoun's list of projects to submit to the NVTAA (Northern Virginia Transportation Association) for their long range planning program Transaction 2040. This was adopted by the Transportation and Land Use Committee in April and the Board at our June 7 Board meeting. I have also requested that project funding be included in the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Additionally, VDOT, Loudoun County transportation staff and the Town of Leesburg staff have already been coordinating efforts during this preliminary phase.

I have met with many of you in the community these past months to keep you apprised of the process and I am as anxious as you are to get concrete proposals on the table. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with you when we have solutions to discuss. Route 15 is extremely over capacity with the average daily traffic count close to 28,000 cars per day causing safety problems, cut through traffic issues and severe impact on quality of life. I believe we can solve this problem in a way that keeps traffic moving while retaining the rural nature of this corridor. I have requested that staff and the consultant review the entire corridor from the Town of Leesburg north to Point of Rocks because I was concerned that the analysis would stop at White's Ferry Road and not include the entire corridor. I have also requested that Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) bus routes also be included in this analysis.

**Forward to a Friend**  
**Join Our Mailing List**

[illegible]

In continuing the vision of the 600-acre state park, which was established through a donation from the Leggett Foundation, through the Old Dominion Land Conservancy (ODLC), to acquire 600 acres of undeveloped land and stream property to establish a new park, the Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution requesting funding for the acquisition of the original 600-acre parcel. The parcel is currently owned by a private landowner, and however the asking price is approximately

Our understanding is that funding may currently exist in the Public Building Authority bond fund to support purchase of this parcel. We are working with the Loudoun County delegation to attempt to access this funding and have requested Governor McAuliffe's support in this effort.



I was able to speak with the Governor last week in Richmond on the issue and was encouraged by his enthusiasm for the project.

This parcel is owned by the Robert & Dee Leggett Foundation and contains the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES). The BRCES is an active center for recreation and environmental education and contains virtually all of the needed infrastructure for a state park - environmental education center, restored historic buildings, roads, trails, water well and septic system, electricity, etc. Future cost savings are expected should the Commonwealth choose to acquire this land because much of the required infrastructure for a state park currently exists. Additionally, BRCES has agreed to continue to serve as the interim manager of the park for as long as needed which will save additional funds for state employees that will not be needed as quickly as otherwise anticipated.

I have also added this as a priority initiative to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors 2017 State Legislative Program.

## **Economic Development Report**

### **Loudoun Shatters Records 2nd Year in a Row**



"Loudoun County is one of America's real economic development success stories," says Loudoun Economic Development's Executive Director Buddy Rizer. In the fiscal year that started July 1, 2015 and ended June 30, 2016, the department recruited or retained 71 businesses, which collectively invested more than \$2.3 billion in Loudoun. That's



the most investment earned by any county in Virginia, and it's double the amount of investment earned by Loudoun last year, which had been economic development's best year on record. The full annual report can be read here: [Department of Economic Development FY2016 Annual Report](#).

"This exponential business growth has translated into two things for Loudoun taxpayers: jobs and prosperity," Rizer said. "The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in June that Loudoun had the third highest employment increase in America at 6.3 percent. And the companies bringing jobs here are taking a significant portion of the tax burden off of homeowners. That means residents get to keep more of their hard-earned wages. It's another reason why Loudoun County is the best place to live, work and play in the D.C. metro area."

## **Selma Estates - Montresor Sidewalk**



I was able to have an item adopted at our December 6, 2016 business meeting to direct staff to identify the design engineering cost and funding sources available to build a missing sidewalk segment on Montresor Road between Beningbrough Place and Limestone Branch Place.

I appreciate the residents for bringing this issue to my attention. There is concern because residents in Selma Estates heavily utilize the section of Montresor between Limestone Branch Place and Beningbrough Place for walking and jogging and are forced to walk in the road due to a lack of an alternative walkway or path. Completing this missing sidewalk link on Montresor Road

would provide a continuous pedestrian safe pathway from Beningbrough Place to Limestone Branch Place. The next step will be for staff to report back to the Board with a finding estimate, which will likely occur early next year.

**Presentation to Rob Buswell**



I had the honor of presenting a [Resolution of Commendation](#) to one of my heroes, Mr. Robert Buswell. Rob is a victim of child abuse. He had the courage to rise above his circumstances and has worked tirelessly to make improvements in Virginia's sex offender registry. As a result of his efforts legislation nicknamed "Robby's Rule", was passed in legislature with the help of Delegate David Ramadan and Senator Ryan McDougle that closes the gap in the state's sex offender registry by including the information of those sexual offenders convicted on or after July 1, 1980, and before July 1, 1994. "Robby's Rule" added over 5,600 names to supplement the Virginia Sex Offender registry. In a more recent victory, Rob worked with Senator Dick Black and Delegate Tag Greason to prevent known sex offenders for obtaining a license plate focused on children or children's programs. Join me in honoring Rob's great

work for the state of Virginia by watching the video on my Facebook page!



## **Saving Selma Manor**



Selma Manor is located off of Route 15, north of Leesburg. The beautiful old home has become run down over the last fifteen years, and many Loudoun natives are thrilled that this building is being saved. I want to thank Scott Miller and Sharon Virts who have undertaken the project. This is a great win for Loudoun County. Follow along with the preservation at Selma Mansion Rebirth [Facebook page](#)!

## **Tyler Wegmeyer Virginia Farmer of the Year**

I am proud to share that The Virginia Cooperative Extension has recognized Tyler Wegmeyer of Wegmeyer Farms near Lincoln as its 2016 Farmer of the Year.

Wegmeyer joined nine other state winners as finalists for the prestigious Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award, on Oct. 18 at the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show in Moultrie, GA. Wegmeyer was nominated for the award by [Loudoun County Extension](#) Agent Jim Hilleary.

Wegmeyer's leadership roles include serving on the boards of the Virginia Strawberry Association, Southern States Cooperative, the Loudoun County Heritage Farm Museum, and as a former president of the Loudoun County Farm Bureau.

Congratulations Tyler!

From [Loudoun Now- Wegmeyer Farmer of the Year](#) 7-7-16.



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### **Virginia Cooperative Extension-Loudoun Survey**

Virginia Cooperative Extension-Loudoun Office serves the residents of Catoctin District by representing Virginia State University and Virginia Tech, Virginia's two land-grant universities. The Extension staff provides us with research-based information relating to Agriculture, Horticulture, Agronomy, Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, and Food Safety. Take the survey! This is an opportunity to provide feedback for improving their services across the County.

[VCE Loudoun Survey](#)

## **Western Loudoun Sheriff's Station Ribbon Cutting**

I was honored to open the Western Loudoun Sheriff's Station in Round Hill. Having worked on this project for the past five years, I am pleased to see the project through from start to finish. This station will serve two thirds of the county's land mass. Thank you to Sheriff Chapman and our LCSO deputies for your continued service to the county.





## **Lovettsville District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company Turns 50!**

Join me in thanking the Lovettsville District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company for fifty years of service. In 1965 a group of men from

Lovettsville discussed forming a fire and rescue company. In February 1966, first aid courses were initiated and the formation of the Lovettsville Volunteer Rescue Company formed that August. Prior to Lovettsville Rescue, Lovettsville relied on fire and rescue services from Brunswick, Maryland and Purcellville. A fire company formed in April 1967, incorporating as the Lovettsville District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

Twelve men formed the Lovettsville fire and rescue company. These men are fondly referred to as The Lovettsville 12: Vaughn Clatterbuck, Guy Clegg, James Gabbert, Ken Harrington, John Lemp, Peter F. Legard Jr., Robert McClain, Robert Peck, George Reed, Robert Riddlemoser, Leon Rust, and George Wells. The effort by these men resulted in a Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company that has served the Lovettsville community for fifty years.

I was pleased to present a [Resolution of Commendation](#) to the company, thanking them for their continued service to Loudoun County. I was joined by Chief Brower, Assistant Chief Tobia, Assistant Chief Johnson, Volunteer Fire Chief Berka, Lovettsville District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company President Karen Deli, and Cliff and Elaine Walker. Cliff Walker was one of the founding members of the Lovettsville Rescue Squad, we are lucky to be able



to thank him for the legacy he and his wife have contributed to Lovettsville.

### **Lovettsville Square Ribbon Cutting**

I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting for the new Lovettsville Square. I am excited to see this space benefit the community. A special thanks to Mayor Zoldos, the Town Council and the Planning Commission for their hard work in making this a reality.





## **The Woods Road Ribbon Cutting**

The new Woods Road opened to drivers on Saturday November 5! This project has been in the works for nearly twenty years.

I want to thank VDOT, county staff, design staff and residents who remained vigilant in helping see this project through.

## **2017 General Assembly Legislative Packet**



Each year the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors formulates legislative priorities prior to the start of the Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond. On October 12, 2016, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to adopt the [2017 Legislative Program](#).

This year, I specifically added language supporting acquisition of an additional parcel for our State Park and language affirming Loudoun County's opposition to any effort to implement a meals tax. Key initiatives include:

- **State Park Funding**
  - Support a budget amendment for an additional 281 acre parcel envisioned to be part of a future 1500 acre state park located in Northwest Loudoun along Harpers Ferry Road.
- **Governor's Task Force on Lyme Disease**
  - Continue to support State administrative, budget or legislative action necessary for implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Lyme Disease except in areas where they become unfunded mandates on localities.
- **Broadband**
  - Support expanding affordable broadband accessibility and cellular service throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in underserved and rural areas while preserving local land use, permitting fees, and other local authority.
- **State Funding for Transportation projects**
  - The County supports increased state funding for primary and secondary road construction and maintenance, including providing adequate funding to pave higher volume dirt roads and safely maintain rural roads. The continued economic vitality of the region and the quality of life of its citizens require

greater State investment in transportation infrastructure, and existing revenue sources are no longer adequate to keep pace with the County's transportation needs.

My personal thanks to all the great folks working so hard in Richmond including all of our Loudoun County delegation members especially Senator Black, Senator Vogel, Senator Wexton, Delegate Minchew, Delegate LaRock, Delegate Bell, Delegate Greason, Delegate Boysko; Loudoun County Staff, Charles Yudd, John Sandy, Gwen Kennedy; and Jeff Gore and Roger Wiley of Hefty, Wiley and Gore for their outstanding advocacy on behalf of the County.

## **Broadband Update**

The Board passed two items to improve broadband connectivity for Western Loudoun. I want to thank county staff and colleagues for moving these items along and look forward to similar actions in the future to help get all Loudoun residents appropriate coverage.

CPAM 2016-0001, Comprehensive Plan Amendment-Telecommunication Facilities and ZOAM 2016-0003, Zoning Ordinance Amendment Telecommunication Facilities streamlines the review process for telecommunication antennas and facilities. The County no longer requires Commission Permit approval for certain types of telecommunication antennas and facilities, making it easier to expand telecommunication and broadband services throughout Eastern and Western Loudoun. You can read more on the item [here](#).

ZOAM 2016-0006, Zoning Ordinance Amendment Telecommunication Facilities in Rural Hamlets and Planned Development-Rural Village Zoning Districts amends the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance adds telecommunications

antennas and monopoles of limited height as permitted or special exception uses in Rural Hamlet and Rural Village zoning districts. This creates consistency in how the Zoning Ordinance regulates telecommunications uses in different residential development options in the Rural and Transition Policy Areas and will permit the development of telecommunication facilities in more rural areas of the County closer to concentrations of homes. You can read more on this item [here](#).

Broadband connectivity remains a top priority for me in the Catoctin District. It has been a pleasure to have the [Communications Commission](#) working tirelessly to brainstorm ways to mitigate the poor broadband coverage of western Loudoun. The Catoctin Representative to the Commission is Tim Dennis, Chair. He has done a tremendous job and has volunteered much time and effort to help solve this problem for the Catoctin District. We have worked very closely with both Tim Dennis and Mark Foster, the Blue Ridge Representative on broadband issues.

One of the latest projects for the communications commission was to review the [RFI \(Request for Information\)](#) that the Board of Supervisors issued to identify public-private partnership solutions for Loudoun's Broadband requirement. The aim of this RFI is to leverage the County's assets to incentivize providers to offer a proposal to bring open fiber to the county's facilities.

If you have poor broadband coverage, or persistent issues with your provider, the [Loudoun Department of Information and Technology](#) has a [tool](#) that you can use to get help. [Loudoun LEx Request](#) is set up so that you can report your broadband problems and the DIT department has someone to address your problems and take them up with your provider. You can also contact my office at 703-771-5028.

## Loudoun Express Request



Loudoun Express Request is a helpful tool for contacting county staff regarding a wide spectrum of issues. Internet service, property use, environmental health, and much more can be entered on LEX. Enter your question or concern and LEX will contact appropriate county staff! Learn more [here](#).

## Lovettsville Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 31** (4:00 - 6:00 pm)

Berserkle on the Squirkle and New Year's Eve on Town Square



### Lovettsville Museum

Open Saturdays from 1:00-4:00PM

The Lovettsville Museum, located at 4 East Pennsylvania Avenue, is open on Saturdays from 1:00-4:00PM and at other times by appointment.

LOUDOUN CARES  
**VOLUNTEER CENTER**



### **Volunteer with Loudoun Cares**

Check out volunteer opportunities with Loudoun Cares Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center is the one-stop resource connecting nonprofit organizations in Loudoun County to individuals in the community looking for a place to volunteer their time and resources.

### **Travel Pulse from Visit Loudoun**



Please find monthly indicators below for Loudoun County in October 2016. Overall, Loudoun county performed well for the month with Occupancy, ADR, and RevPAR all pacing ahead of 2015 YTD.  
Read more [online](#).

#### **Loudoun Hotel Occupancy**

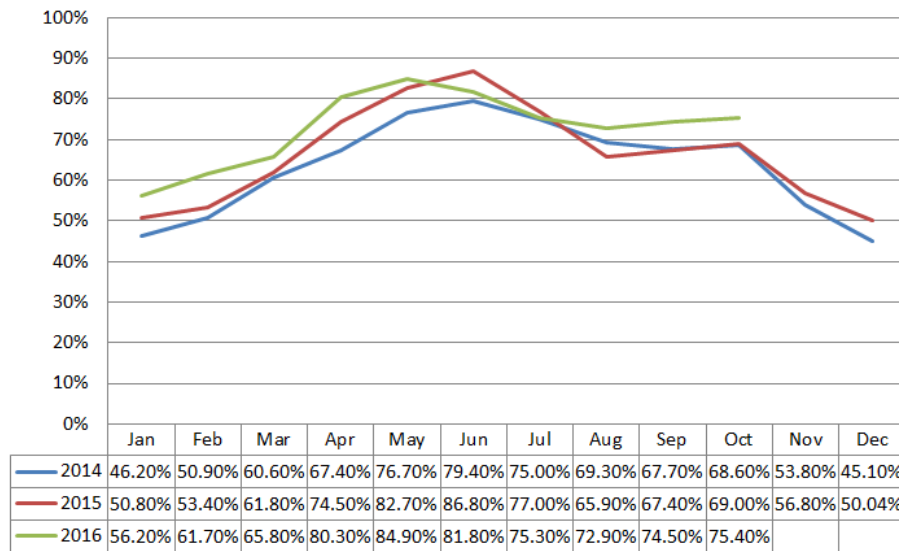
Occupancy for Loudoun County in October 2016 was 75.4%, which increased 9.2% from October 2015. This occupancy can be attributed to corporate meetings with 5,338 room nights, followed by sports events with 2,702 room nights, and



weddings with 2,667 room nights. Overall, occupancy still continues to pace 5.5% ahead of 2015.

Source: STR Inc.

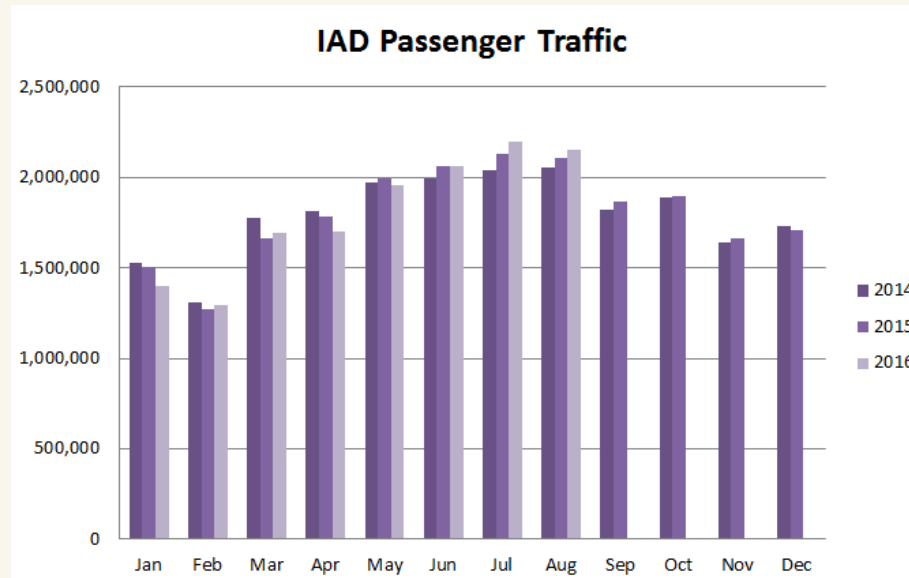
### Occupancy



### Dulles Airport Passenger Traffic

2,153,994 passengers passed through the gates of Dulles in August 2016, an increase of 2% from August 2015. September & October statistics have not yet been released.

Source: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority



#### Inauguration Occupancy Update

Looking at group and transient reports from TravelClick for Loudoun County hotels, we are currently sitting at 66.2% occupancy for the night of inauguration. We are forecasting 42.3% occupancy for the night of the Million Women March.

Source: TravelClick

Day of Week	Date	Total Occ%	Group Occ%	Transient Occ%	Notes
Sun	1/15/2017	24.8%	21.8%	3.0%	
Mon	1/16/2017	18.1%	16.1%	2.0%	MLK Day
Tue	1/17/2017	19.5%	16.5%	3.0%	
Wed	1/18/2017	31.2%	25.1%	6.1%	
Thu	1/19/2017	58.2%	32.6%	25.6%	
Fri	1/20/2017	66.2%	34.7%	31.5%	Inauguration
Sat	1/21/2017	42.3%	22.1%	20.2%	Million Women March
Sun	1/22/2016	16.1%	10.6%	5.5%	

## Lucketts Ruritan Recycling



Lucketts Ruritans are selling 18 gallon plastic **recycle bins** for \$20 at their Saturday morning trash compactor service and recycling program. The blue tubs are emblazoned with "We Recycle" on one side and the Ruritan logo, "Lucketts Ruritan" and "Recycling since 1989" on the other. This effort is to celebrate 25 years of recycling in Lucketts, raise money for charity and provide a convenient means for their patrons to transport recyclable materials from home to their on-site containers.

Find more information [here.](#)

## Loudoun Crime Report

The Western Loudoun deputies serve a population of approximately 51,191. There were approximately 15,322 calls for service between January 1st and August 29th for this service area alone.

Aggravated assault, theft, burglary, and larceny crimes increased where rape and robbery decreased versus this same time period last year.

Read more from the Western Loudoun Sheriff Station Quarterly meeting [here](#).

Thank you Loudoun County Sheriffs Department for your continued service to Loudoun County. Don't forget to sign up for the [Alert Loudoun](#) system.

## Road Project Updates

*The latest on County and VDOT projects that concern Catoclin*

### ***Village of Lucketts Safety Project:***

*VDOT has obtained estimates for certain elements of the project. A determination on what can be done with the remaining funding will be discussed. VDOT reported that the federal government is looking to determine if there are adequate funds to get the project to the next phase or there could be ramifications to the State on use of the funds. Awaiting results of the Route 15 Congestion Relief study to determine how to proceed with this*

### ***Route 28 Hot Spot Improvements:***

*Construction on the expansion of the Northbound and Southbound bridge deck over the Dulles Toll Road is underway.*

*Construction on the expansion of the Northbound and Southbound bridge deck over the Dulles Toll Road is underway. Construction on the southbound widening to eight lanes from Sterling Boulevard to the Dulles Greenway began in September, 2016. Traffic barriers and maintenance of traffic signs have been installed. Environmental permits have been secured, the project is under construction. Completion is scheduled for December, 2016. Construction proceeding on schedule. Project completion may slip to Summer 2017 due to delay in obtaining MWAA permit. Work currently underway includes installation of the base asphalt for the added travel lane; construction of added travel lane is 50% complete. Shoulder construction from Route 606 to Innovation Avenue will take place in the Fall 2016. Project completion is scheduled for Summer 2017.*

*Funding of this project was authorized by the Route 28 Tax District Commission on March 18, 2016. VDOT issued notice to proceed on May 26, 2016. Project is in design phase, 60% submittal scheduled for Fall 2016 and final approved designs scheduled for Summer 2017.*

***George Washington Overpass:***

*This project will extend George Washington Boulevard (Route 1050) from its current intersection with Bridgefield Way/Research Place south to Russell Branch Pkwy via a new bridge over Route 7 (Harry Byrd Highway).*

*Schedule & Cost*

*Anticipated Schedule*

*Advertise for construction - 2019*

*Begin construction - 2020*

*Estimated Costs*

*Preliminary engineering - \$1.4 million*

*Right of way - \$6.1 million*

Construction - \$16.7 million

Total - \$24.2 million

**Belmont Ridge Road Bridge Over the Greenway:**

VDOT staff provided an analysis of what would be involved in restriping the bridge to accommodate four lanes versus what would be involved in constructing the bridge per the CTP with pedestrian accommodations and a sound wall. The initial estimates are \$5.5 million versus \$37.5 million. More discussion to occur between County and VDOT staffs. The project was submitted as a candidate for HB-2 funding. It has not been recommended by VDOT staff for funding. DTCI staff met with representatives of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and requested this project be funded by the Commonwealth. Funding for this project is reiterated in the Board of Supervisors Statement for the May 2, 2016 Commonwealth Transportation Board Hearing on House Bill 2 Prioritized Projects which will be discussed at the April 21, 2016 Board meeting. VDOT's Draft FY17 Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) proposes funding for this project; the final SYIP will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for adoption in June 2016. \$7.5M funding was approved for this project. Project kick-off meeting held June 29, 2016; design to be prepared by VDOT. Location survey is underway.

**Route 15 Interchange at Edwards Ferry/Fort Evans Road:**

This project aims to relieve congestion, increase capacity, and improve safety along about a mile of the Route 15 Bypass near Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road.

The area surrounding the intersections of Fort Evans Road, Edwards Ferry Road and the Leesburg Bypass has experienced significant commercial growth during the past 15-20 years. As a result, traffic volumes are beyond the capacity of the existing at-grade intersections.

Currently, there are high through-traffic volumes on the Bypass during weekday morning and evening peak periods, as well as heavy

*turn movements to and from Edwards Ferry and Fort Evans Roads, causing heavy congestion. Additionally, the road network has gaps in sidewalks, and existing conditions provide no opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross Route 15. These intersections also have a history of elevated crash rates.*

*Proposed Improvements*

- *Construct a grade-separated interchange at Route 15 and Edwards Ferry Road.*
- *Improve facilities for pedestrians.*
- *Construct improvements at Fort Evans Road to address congestion and safety.*

*Environmental Review*

*VDOT performs environmental reviews and coordinates with federal, state, and local agencies to:*

- *obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity*
- *provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development*
- *identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.*

*In accordance with 23 CFR 771 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is being prepared in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration. The CE will include information from various technical reviews including those related to water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of*



*Historic Places will also be provided in the environmental documentation.*

*Second Public Information Meeting - Fall 2016*

*Design Public Hearing - Spring 2017*

*Design Approval - Fall 2017*

*Begin Construction - To be determined*

*Estimated Project Costs*

*VDOT has entered into an agreement with the Town of Leesburg to administer engineering design of this project. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) has allocated \$2 million to the Town to fund preliminary engineering studies to determine how best to improve traffic operations and safety for this location.*

*The preliminary engineering studies and design phase is currently funded. Additional funding sources are being pursued for the project to proceed to construction.*

- *Preliminary Engineering: \$6-8 million*
- *Right of Way acquisition and Utility Relocation: \$4-7 million*
- *Construction: \$50-55 million*

*Total estimated project cost: \$60-70 million*

*More resources on Route 15 can be found [online](#).*

***Route 7/Battlefield Parkway Interchange:***

*This project consists of development of a new grade-separated interchange on East Market Street (Route 7) at Battlefield Parkway. The existing at-grade signalized intersection at this location is heavily congested and has one of the highest accident rates in the Town. East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway serve as major commuter routes, and there are large current and proposed retail developments for the area that generate significant traffic volumes.*

*Partial funding has been received from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa). Additional funding will be*

*requested from the NVTa and VDOT as this is a high priority interchange for Loudoun County and the Town, and is included in the VDOT 2040 plan.*

*As of October 28, 2016 - This project is being administered by VDOT. The preliminary design and interchange justification report are underway. NVTa funding in the amount of \$20 million was awarded in Fiscal Year 2017.*

***Route 7/Williams Gap Road Turnlane:***

*The purpose of this project is to improve traffic operations and safety at the intersection of Virginia Route 7 Harry Byrd Highway and Route 711 Williams Gap Road.*

*Westbound Route 7 will be widened with the addition of a 350 ft. long right-turn only lane plus a 200 ft. long taper. About 150 ft. of Williams Gap Road will be regraded and hard-surfaced in order to effectively tie into the new turn lane. Drainage improvements will be made within the project limits.*

*Design approval - Summer 2016*

*Begin right of way acquisition - Fall 2016*

*Begin construction - Spring 2018*

*Complete construction - Summer 2018*

*Estimated Costs*

*Engineering of roadway plans - \$250,000*

*Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation - \$300,000*

*Construction - \$1.1 million*

*Total - \$1.6 million*

***John G. Lewis Memorial (Featherbed Lane) Bridge over Catoctin Creek:***

*The purpose of this project is to develop conceptual bridge alternatives to address the existing historic truss bridge. Six alternatives are being evaluated including the restoration of the existing truss bridge to the previous 15-ton vehicle capacity; or repurposing the bridge as a pedestrian bridge and providing a*

*parallel vehicular bridge; or replacing the bridge with a new truss vehicular bridge or bridge with a truss facade.*

*John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge (Route 673 - Featherbed Lane) over Catoctin Creek is a single span steel pin connected Pratt through truss with a timber deck and asphalt overlay, supported on stringers and floor beams. It is 157 feet long, has an overall width of about 14 feet and clear roadway width of 11.16 feet. It carries one alternating traffic lane.*

- The bridge was originally erected in 1889 on the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike (Route 7) over Goose Creek, to replace a bridge destroyed by flooding.*
- In 1932 the bridge was dismantled and moved to its current location.*
- The bridge was posted 15 tons in 2004 and reduced to 3 tons in 2013 due to insufficient capacity.*
- The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 57 vehicles per day with daily truck traffic less than 3 trucks.*
- The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974.*

*Authorize preliminary engineering - Fall 2016*

*Draft environmental document - Spring 2017*

*Advertisement for construction - Summer 2019*

*Begin construction - Late 2019*

*Estimated Costs*

*Preliminary Engineering - \$800,000*

*Right-of-Way - \$200,000*

*Construction - \$4.3 million*

*Total - \$5.3 million*

***Forest Mills Road Bridge over Crooked Run:***

*The purpose of this project is to replace the Forest Mills Road (Route 727) bridge over Crooked Run.*

*The 68-foot long existing bridge was built in 1932. The bridge is a single-lane structure comprised of two steel spans with a timber deck. The superstructure is supported on rubble masonry piers and abutments. The bridge is classified as structurally deficient and is a candidate for federal funds for replacement. "Structurally deficient" does not mean that a structure is in danger of imminent failure, but that its condition has deteriorated to a point where it should be replaced or it can no longer carry today's heavier vehicle loads. The bridge will be replaced by a new single-lane structure. Safety will be improved with the addition of railings. The length and alignment of the new structure will likely remain similar to the existing bridge.*

*This project will be designed using federal guidelines for very low-volume local roads (less than 400 vehicles a day).*

*The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 230 vehicles per day, and a projected count of 300 vehicles per day for the design year of 2027.*

*Begin construction - Spring 2017*

*Estimated completion - Summer 2017*

*Estimated Costs*

*Engineering of roadway plans: \$650,000*

*Right of way acquisition, relocation assistance & utility relocation: \$100,000*

*Construction: \$1.7 million*

*Total: \$2.5 million*

***Allder School Road Paving*** (Woodgrove Road to Hillsboro Road):

*This project designs and paves Allder School Road from Woodgrove Road to Hillsboro Road. In this quarter, land acquisition was completed and right-of-way cleared for construction that was scheduled to begin in September of 2016; however, as utility negotiations began, Dominion Power increased its cost for utility movement by an additional \$500k. Due to this unexpected increase in cost, the County is trying to determine what utilities it can move*

on its own in order to reduce the impact of this unexpected cost increase and bring the project back within budget. As of now, construction start date is TBD. The construction phase is anticipated to be complete by Summer 2018.

**Route 7/Route 690 Interchange** (Preparation of IJR and preliminary design plans):

Resubmittal of IJR went to VDOT and comments were received. The IJR was submitted to VDOT Central Office for review and comment on 4/15/2015. Notice was received by VDOT in early June that the IJR was approved by Central Office. It now has to go to the CTB for approval. The consultant submitted 30% design plans in mid-September to VDOT. County staff and Dewberry will meet with VDOT to discuss the issue of clearance with the height of the existing bridge over Route 7. As it stands now, if the bridge is widened it may have to be replaced. Staff received comments from VDOT and the Town of Purcellville on the 30% design plans. This project will stop until additional funds are identified. The Adopted FY2017 CIP has \$4M for design of this interchange; funding will become available in July 2016 for design to commence. County reviewing scoping document from Dewberry. Design should begin by the end of July 2016. County reviewed cost proposal for design and has requested additional information.

**Riverside Parkway Extension** (Loudoun County Parkway to Lexington Drive):

A second public information meeting was held on October 21st. Staff presented the Board with an alignment recommendation at the December 3, 2014 business meeting. The Board approved the staff recommendation to move forward with Alternative 1 alignment. Thirty percent design plans were submitted to VDOT. A public hearing was held on April 16th at G.W. University. Sixty percent plans were submitted to VDOT in mid-September, 2015 for the road project. Consultant is currently addressing 60% comments from VDOT and Building and Development. Final submission should

be made in early 2016. The wetlands permit was issued on November 6, 2015. Revenue share funds will not cover the cost of the new water line - only the portion impacted by the road project itself. Staff is working on this funding issue with VDOT and Loudoun Water. 90% plans are being prepared for submission. Utility design is needed before 90% plans can be submitted. Title reports have been ordered. 90% design plans have been prepared but not yet submitted to B&D and VDOT. The County is working with Loudoun Water to determine the placement of a 12 inch waterline. The County received VDOT's value engineering recommendations on August 16, 2016.

**Riverside Parkway Extension** (Ashburn Village Boulevard to Lexington Drive): The construction contract for the project was awarded to Shirley Contracting and they are commencing construction on this portion of Riverside Parkway. The construction should take approximately 8 to 12 months to complete, weather permitting. Construction has commenced on the project. The contractor is working on the installation of a waterline, while Miller & Smith has submitted permits to VDOT for entrance and the traffic signal. They will also be working on receiving the grading permit from the County as well. The construction schedule remains 8 to 12 months, weather permitting, on this project.

**Route 7/Ashburn Village Boulevard:**

VDOT approved the design plans on October 5, 2015. The County approved the Construction Plans and Profiles (CPAP). One Loudoun has contracted with Shirley Contracting to construct the interchange. A groundbreaking was held on October 22, 2015. Shirley Contracting began construction earlier this year and the anticipated completion date is Summer 2018. Construction of bridge piles in progress along with storm water management culvert. Utility relocation in progress along with installation of box culvert on south side of Route 7 and storm drain construction; piles are being set for bridge abutment B. As you can see when driving in the area, work

*continues on bridge piers; underground utility installation is also in progress. Grading has begun on the Claiborne Parkway ramp.*



**Thank you VDOT for all the recent Catoctin road improvements including Route 9, Clarks Gap, Taylorstown, Loyalty, Milltown, and Harpers Ferry!**

**If you'd like to keep up or find out more about ongoing or upcoming VDOT projects that affect you, you can check out [the VDOT website](#).**

**Specifically, you may be interested in the following projects:**

- [Paving Conditions and Schedule](#)
- [Woods Road](#)
- [Route 9 Traffic Calming](#)
- [Route 15 at Edwards Ferry and Fort Evans Road](#)



What historic treasure  
was stored in Leesburg  
when the British burned  
D.C. in the War of 1812?



*Think You Know?*

find the answer at:  
[www.loudounmuseum.org](http://www.loudounmuseum.org)

### **History Highlight: George K. Fox Saves County Records**

George K. Fox, Jr. is one of the unsung heroes of the Civil War in this County. This is the fascinating story of his rescue of the records of the Court of Loudoun County.

General John W. Geary and his troops of the 28th Pennsylvania Regiment came into Lovettsville on February 24, 1862. In anticipation of their occupation of Leesburg, the County seat of Loudoun, all the County records were loaded into a wagon and



carried away to safety. It is well that they were removed, as Geary's troops occupied all public buildings and the Bank of the Valley (which sits across the street from the courthouse complex in the center of Leesburg) in March, 1862. Many counties in Virginia suffered severe damage to their records when the court houses and clerk's offices were occupied by federal troops. The records are not merely vital to lawyers and landowners, but also to historians as the documents contain the history of the County.

The story starts with a memorandum written by Fox in the County minute book in use at the time: "Owing to the continuance of the War, no court was held in the county from February 1862 to July 1865." Two former historians have given accounts of what happened. Harrison Williams stated that Mrs. Fannie Fox Mason, Fox's daughter, gave him this information:

The Loudoun Court, headed by Presiding Justice Asa Rogers, ordered County Clerk George K. Fox, Junior, to remove the records to a place of safety and to use his discretion about their preservation. Pursuant to these instructions, Mr. Fox loaded the records into a large wagon and with these drove south to Campbell County. For the next four years, he moved his precious charge about place to place as danger threatened each refuge in turn.

Mr. Harrison described the episode in this way: "The Clerk (of the Court) stated that at the outbreak of the War, all records of Loudoun County were removed to Campbell County pursuant to an order entered to that effect."

The fact of the matter is that no such order is on record. It would seem that Mr. Rogers gave the order verbally. If Rogers gave a written order, it is possible that the urgency of the moment prevented Fox from entering it in the Minute Book.

At one time, considerable discussion went on over where the records were taken. Some local residents, like Mrs. Mason, had always heard they were taken to Campbell County. Others maintained just

as stoutly that they went to Albemarle County. Would that Mr. Fox had left a diary! Perhaps some fortunate record searcher may one day be able to trace Fox's travels from March, 1862 to July, 1865. As soon as the newly-elected officers and justices met in July, 1865, after the necessary oaths were administered, their final order of business was recorded thus:

"That George K. Fox, Junior, as Clerk of this Court, having removed from this County the records of the Court under an order heretofore made, he is now ordered to return the records to the Clerk's Office of this Court as soon as possible at the expense of the County."

It is doubtful that Fox was even paid. The Justices went for at least two years without ever setting a levy.

The Democratic Mirror (published at Leesburg) for August 9 1865 carried this news story:

George K. Fox, Junior, Esquire, late Clerk of the Court, reached home Friday from the Devil's Kitchen with the Records of the County which were removed more than three years ago by Order of the Court. They were returned in good condition without the loss of a single paper, or so much as the rubbing of the bindings of the books. The office is now in good running condition except for a few minor papers which were left behind. The State Highway Department has located the Devil's Kitchen as being close to Goshen Pass in Rockbridge County. The Court ordered Fox to return the records on July 10 and by August 9 he arrived in Leesburg.

Doubtless, this was considered very prompt execution of the order, considering the distance and the condition of the roads.

*By the Virginia Civil War Centennial Commission, County of Loudoun, Commonwealth of Virginia. Text by John Divine, Wilber C. Hall, Marshall Andrews, and Penelope M. Osburn. Edited by Fitzhugh Turner. Published by the Virginia Civil War Centennial Commission 1961-1965.*

Read similar stories at [loudounhistory.org](http://loudounhistory.org)

## Small Business Spotlight:

## **Lovettsville Cooperative Market**

540-822-0350



Lovettsville Cooperative Market will offer healthy and affordable products in a member-owned grocery store. They are committed to policies, practices, and values that support a vibrant community and a strong local economy.

### **VALUES:**

We promote our mission through:

1. Bringing high quality foods to our customer base without sacrificing a wide range of products that are accessible and affordable.
2. Sourcing products from local and regional farmers and producers when possible.
3. Serving as a hub for exchange beyond commercial transaction, including community building, gathering, and learning.
4. Operating under a business model that fosters economic, social, and environmental justice.
5. Operating under a cooperative model that honors the role of the member-owner as an active participant in co-op success,

whether through voting, economic inputs, volunteer efforts, or leadership.

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*Would you like your Catoctin business highlighted in one of our future newsletters? Or would you like to recommend a Catoctin business? Email [mikayla.feil@loudoun.gov](mailto:mikayla.feil@loudoun.gov) and we'll pen you in!*

### **Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra**



LSYO scheduled concert dates for this season are Saturdays:  
November 19, 2016, March 18, 2017, & May 13, 2017.

### **Loudoun Symphony Orchestra**

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

"Winter Respite", 4 PM

Guest Conductor: Juan Antonio Gallastegui Roca

Guest Artist: Teresa Gordon, violin

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William Kane and family.

Middleburg Community Center  
300 W. Washington Street  
Middleburg, VA 20118

Haydn Symphony No. 88, Bach Concerto No. 1 for Violin  
Beethoven Symphony No. 1 in C Major

This lively program features delightful compositions that will chase away the winter gloom. The concert will be presented in an intimate salon format with the orchestra in the midst of the audience to provide you a birds-eye view of the musicians. Wine and other refreshments will be offered throughout the concert.

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### **Let Your Friends in on the Latest!**

Do you have a friend or a neighbor who would benefit from the information in this newsletter? Then, forward this on!

My office is working to ensure as many Catoctin residents as possible are being informed about important issues -whether those are public hearing notices, road closure announcements, inclement weather advisories, or other updates on issues of importance to the district and to the county.

**[Click to Sign Up](#)**

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

**Supervisor Geary Higgins**

Board of Supervisors - Catoctin District  
Loudoun County, Virginia

Supervisor Geary Higgins | [geary.higgins@loudoun.gov](mailto:geary.higgins@loudoun.gov)

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